

County begun in 1911 by the Traveler's Club, of which Mrs. Henderson was a member. McKay's early law office was sold by Henderson's grandson A.H. Boyden in 1876, dismantled and sent to Philadelphia for the exposition, but was never seen again. A.H. Boyden's grandson Burton Craige and his heirs donated the lot in 1949 for the purpose of establishing a library, along with \$75,000 to aid in the construction of the building. The old Boyden home place was demolished in 1949 and the new library building was completed in 1951. Rowan Public Library has produced a video series, *A Ramble through Rowan*, documenting the history of Rowan County. The lot, on which the library is built, Lot 19 and its rich history, is the subject of the first film.

Special Collections

Local History/Genealogy of Rowan County and Western Carolina

The Craige Collection of North Caroliniana including Catesby -- The rare book room currently houses the Archibald Craige Collection of North Caroliniana, an amazing collection of books, journals, and pamphlets documenting the history of North Carolina. Compiled over most of the twentieth century by Burton Craige and his son, Archibald, the collection contains nearly 2,000 titles, many of which are rare and include some early imprints by Coupee and Slump, early printers in Salisbury. Of particular note is the wide array of pamphlets, many containing speeches of the state's luminaries. Mr. Craige resided and practiced law in Virginia, but his family had ties to Rowan County. Archibald Craige donated the Craige Collection to Rowan Public Library in December of 1999. The crowning jewel in this collection is *The Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*, a two volume set of the flora and fauna of our area written by English naturalist Mark Catesby in 1753. Catesby (1679-1749) was a naturalist who traveled in the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and the Bahamas from 1722-1726. Predating Audubon by about one hundred years, he was the first to produce an American natural history. He also was the first to place his birds and animals in their natural habitats with plants that were part of their habitat. It